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**THE ROLE OF THE US ARMY VETERINARY
CORPS OFFICER IN STABILITY OPERATIONS**

Samuel K, Kirk

**Army War College
Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania**

25 September 1970

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**THE ROLE OF THE US ARMY
VETERINARY CORPS OFFICER IN STABILITY OPERATIONS**

by

**Colonel Samuel K. Kirk
Veterinary Corps**

**US Army War College
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SUMMARY

study
→ The purpose of this thesis is to examine the formal and service training of US Army Veterinary Corps officers and *show* how this *training* notably strengthens their varied contributions to US Army stabilization operations efforts. The present roles of veterinary officers engaged in these activities are analyzed. Present roles and anticipated need for greater participation is predicted. Suggested requirement guidelines for the formation of a new veterinary stabilizations operations career section within the US Army Veterinary Corps are presented for consideration.

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THE ROLE OF THE US ARMY VETERINARY
CORPS OFFICER IN STABILITY OPERATIONS

SECTION I

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

This paper will describe US Army Veterinary Corps officer participation in stability operations both in years past and as found in more contemporary situations. Following an analysis of present roles played by veterinary officers in relation to stability operations, a new concept providing for greater use of our veterinary officers is proposed. Conclusions are given which will permit greater and more effective use of these officers in stability operations activities.

"The health of a nation to include their animal industry is a key factor in stabilizing the economy of the nation. Interdisciplinary application to the problems facing us in helping others less fortunate to help themselves is essential."¹

Military medicine as a special field of medicine includes dentistry, veterinary medicine and the supporting health services. More oftener than in practice persons of the various military medical disciplines work as teams.²

¹James C. Hertzog, The Health of the Nation - A Strategic Factor. Thesis (Carlisle Barracks: US Army War College, 9 March 1970), p. 7.

²"Why Military Medicine?" Military Medicine, November 1969, p. 1454.

Field Manual 31-23 defines stability operations as "that type of internal defense and internal development operations and assistance provided by the armed forces to maintain, restore or establish a climate of order within which responsible government can function effectively and without which progress cannot be achieved."³

CHAPTER II. US ARMY VETERINARY CORPS OFFICER PARTICIPATION

Within the US Army Medical Department family, the Veterinary Corps officer performs four functions as delineated in Army Regulation 40-1 which contribute to the accomplishment of the mission of the Army Medical Department. These are the functions of: animal care, research and development, preventive medicine and food inspection.⁴ All of these work service task areas are applicable to the veterinary stability operations tasks which will be described.

US Army Veterinary officer assistance through the various programs - these will be identified as applicable when describing activities in specific regions - can do much to deter threats to peace by helping small developing nations in the maintenance of internal stability and security and in meeting communist aggression.

Brigadier General Wilson M. Osteen, Chief of the US Army Veterinary Corps, on 3 September 1968, following one of his trips to visit veterinary officers at overseas locations, wrote that:

³US Department of the Army, Field Manual 31-23: Stability Operations - US Army Doctrine (Washington: December 1967), p. 150.

⁴US Department of the Army, Army Regulations 40-1: Composition, Mission and Functions of the Army Medical Service (Washington: 1 June 1964), pp. 2, 5-6.

"Our Veterinary Corps has a wealth of talent unsurpassed in the Army. Our policy will be to use that talent to the fullest degree, thereby creating individual confidence and career satisfaction among our members. Every position to which an individual is assigned is an important one... The most effective advertising devices known are efficiency, loyalty, dedication and cooperation..."⁵

To cite another descriptive acclamation, the US Army Chief of Staff, General W. C. Westmoreland, wrote in June 1970:

"The Veterinary Corps of today's Army continues to play a vital role in food inspection activities for our troops world-wide. Increasing responsibilities have been placed on you to instruct, advise, and support scientists - not only of this country but also of our Allies - in a multitude of investigatory programs in the fields of pathology, microbiology, radiobiology, and space medicine. Your care and treatment of scout, tracker, and sentry dogs have enabled them to support our troops effectively in Vietnam even under the most adverse conditions. These and other vital tasks have proven the Veterinary Corps to be an indispensable member of the Army team."⁶

The Corps completed 50 years of distinguished service in June 1966 - having developed and adapted to changing conditions and mission emphasis. In a brochure commemorating that anniversary, the author said that:

"Research efforts and veterinary advisory efforts to developing nations contribute to ever increasing demands for qualified military veterinarians. The small animal veterinary support role, particularly in security, combat support, and research and development missions is also steadily increasing."⁷

⁵US Department of the Army, Memorandum for Each Veterinary Officer (Washington: 3 September 1968), p. 3.

⁶W. C. Westmoreland, Message to the Members of the United States Army Veterinary Corps (Washington: Chief of Staff, US Army, June 1970).

⁷US Government Printing Office, US Army Veterinary Corps (Washington: USGPO RPI 569, 0-363-488, September 1969), pp. 8-9.

CHAPTER III. FORMAL UNDERGRADUATE TRAINING OF VETERINARIANS

It is felt that a brief background about the individuals applying for a commission in the US Army Veterinary Corps is essential to an understanding and appreciation of the whole person ultimately available and competent to serve in a stability operations role.

World-wide there are 194 veterinary schools of various qualities. Distribution and number of these institutions often fail to meet the needs of burgeoning population growth and food demand. The United States and Canada with their 21 veterinary schools attempt to supply the veterinary demands of animal owners, industry, and government for the North American continent.⁸ About one of five applicants completing preveterinary university training are accepted. It is expected that "by 1980 the number of veterinarians will start to decrease while the general population will continue to increase... Based upon a 1961 Senate committee report on government operations, the United States will be short more than 15,000 veterinarians in 1980."⁹

The undergraduate training received by the veterinary student compares favorably with that of the physician and dentist.¹⁰ The average freshman veterinary student has completed three and one-half years

⁸Directory of the American Veterinary Medical Association - 1970 (Chicago), 1970.

⁹Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (Chicago: December 15, 1966), pp. 518-519.

¹⁰Joe W. Atkins, "The Versatile Veterinarian," Veterinary Medicine, July 1961, p. 310.

college preparatory work. Veterinary school then follows and incorporates the disciplines of anatomy, veterinary clinics, medicine and surgery, pharmacology, microbiology, parasitology, pathology and public health.¹¹

Having completed his formal education, the graduate veterinarian may choose to serve as commissioned officer in the US Army or Air Force with the entrance grade of Captain, or in numerous civilian professional fields. These include private veterinary practice, laboratory animal and research work, governmental regulatory agency tasks, veterinary public health, teaching, and staff zoological positions. Most of the Army Veterinary Corps officers in the past have been volunteers. The veterinary doctor draft has been implemented when insufficient persons have volunteered to fill requirements.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, when Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Reorganization and International Organizations, in 1961, published a comprehensive report on Veterinary Medical Science and Human Health.¹² In this work the world-wide participative effort by all segments of the profession has been described. For the prospective student or anyone seeking a complete overview of the subject area, reading of this publication is recommended.

¹¹Bulletin of the Texas A & M University (College Station, Texas), February 17, 1970, pp. 337-339.

¹²US Congress, Senate, Committee Report, Veterinary Medical Science and Human Health, 87th Congress, 1st sess., (Washington: US Government Printing Office, 10 August 1961), pp. 2-4.

CHAPTER IV. SERVICE SCHOOL AND GRADUATE TRAINING

Like officers of other branches, the Veterinary Corps members get certain initial required service school training plus additional training at service schools and civilian institutions later, based upon the aspirations and demonstrated qualities of the individual and needs of the service.

The new Veterinary Corps officer receives four weeks of basic indoctrination about the Army Medical Service organization and basic field training. He then moves to the Army Medical Department Veterinary School in Chicago, Illinois for eight weeks of intensive training which provides a base in food and military animal subjects. The officer may first contact a veterinary officer from another country at this point who is a guest of the US Army for training.¹³

For the veterinary officer electing to remain in the service beyond the two year obligatory period, additional training can be anticipated. This continues as his career develops to include the Army Medical Department Officer Career Course, the Command and General Staff College and possibly one of the senior service schools. Veterinary officers assigned to special forces, civil affairs, military advisory and other assignments where a foreign language proficiency is essential usually obtain service school or civilian contract language training prior to their overseas assignment.

A new veterinary pathology preceptorship program was begun in FY 69 which permits a limited number of veterinary officers to serve for

¹³"Indonesian and Iranian Veterinarians Visit AVMA," Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA), June 1970, p. 1535.

five years on a training and working basis while serving under an Army board pathologist. This new program will provide several highly qualified veterinary pathologists to meet military Army needs. Short tours to fulfill regular needs overseas take precedence over training programs but do not reduce the five year training period.¹⁴

The veterinary career officer looks toward a chance to receive one or more years of postdoctoral training in graduate school to assist him to perform better. Fortunately a number of validated positions requiring persons trained in several graduate disciplines are available. These include veterinary, public health, microbiology, virology, epidemiology, pathology, laboratory animal medicine, physiology, surgery, radiobiology and operations research/systems analysis. In addition to the masters degree level training, a limited number of positions calling for training at the doctor of philosophy level have been validated and officers are currently being trained. Specialty board certification after completion of the formal program is usually obtained by the trained officers.

Continuing education for the career officer has been available within the limitation of available funds to attend professional meetings enhancing and furthering educational levels. A few Veterinary Corps officers attend international meetings each year which help provide a climate of cooperation with representatives of other countries for the veterinary military service.¹⁵

¹⁴Memorandum for Each Veterinary Officer, p. 5.

¹⁵"World Veterinary Congress to Meet in 1970," JAVMA, September 15, 1967, p. 1504.

Members of the Army Veterinary Corps number 650. Additionally, thirteen hundred very competent and dedicated enlisted men of the Army Medical Department assist the officers. These men hold military occupational specialties as Veterinary Food Inspection Technician (MOS 91R), or Veterinary Animal Specialist (MOS 91T).¹⁶ The Vietnam Conflict has seen a large increase in personnel trained for the 91T MOS because of greatly increased requirements for that skill in veterinary support of sentry, patrol, scout, and tracker dog units. The Army Medical Department Veterinary School in Chicago provides MOS, refresher, and advanced training for MOS 91R personnel while the Veterinary Division of the Walter Reed Institute of Research in Washington provides the Veterinary Animal Specialist training.¹⁷ The Chicago facility maintains a training team of specially trained officers and enlisted specialists available for travel overseas to teach foreign allied nationals in particular veterinary military disciplines.

CHAPTER V. A LEARNING EXPERIENCE THROUGH ASSIGNMENT

We are a product of our culture, environment, and learning experiences. Considerable background and stateside learning experience accompany the veterinary officer assigned to stabilization operations activities. Some officers are "old hands" at the business while others are on their first foreign service tour. The career assignment branch

¹⁶US Department of the Army, Army Regulations 611-201: Enlisted Military Occupational Specialties (Washington: April 1969), pp. 991; 999.

¹⁷"Army Veterinarians in Vietnam," JAVMA, February 1969, pp. 459-462.

of the Office of the Assistant for Veterinary Services, Office of The US Army Surgeon General, assigns veterinary officers to CONUS duties for a time prior to overseas tours. Furthermore, the more critical and less supervised stability operations positions are filled by career officers having additional training and experience.

Assignments at a CONUS Army laboratory, a food inspection/procurement job, station veterinary activities, or assignment to one of the several research and development laboratories furthers the development of the individual. TOE units in CONUS designated for mobilization exist but training is limited. At times these units are called into action however for CONUS exercises.¹⁸ An accumulation of training and learning experiences both in CONUS and overseas blend to make the individual able to perform in an outstanding manner in his new assignment often under rather primitive but challenging conditions.

From all of this certain outstanding individuals emerge as particularly interested in stability operations activities - persons who don't mind hardships and long periods of additional and specialized training. These individuals in my opinion ultimately perform exceptionally well in stability operations activities tasks. These individuals may have the background of the generalist or specialist, or a combination of these. Stability operations in a broad sense are not limited to undeveloped countries. These operations may occur in a country devastated by war, or in a natural disaster situation. Veterinary officer personnel

¹⁸ Merritt W. Pitcher, After Action Report - Exercise Desert Strike (Fort Sam Houston: 30 June 1964), pp. 1-6.

performing stability operations hold one of the following military occupational specialties: General Veterinary Officer (MOS Code 3200); Small Animal Veterinary Officer (3202); Veterinary Food Hygienist (3204); Veterinary Laboratory Animal Officer (3205); Veterinary Pathologist (3206); Veterinary Microbiologist/Parasitologist (3207); Veterinary Radiobiologist/Radiologist (3208); or, Veterinary Staff Officer (3203).¹⁹

Although the above MOS listing has expanded and clarified our previous Army list of occupational groupings, we find among civilian veterinarians over 40 specialty groups present among the membership of the American Veterinary Association. Excessive specialty subdivisions could seriously limit flexibility of assignment for military veterinary officers.²⁰ A new MOS code for Stabilization Operations Officer might be needed and is discussed later in this paper.

CHAPTER VI. VETERINARY SERVICE, WORLD WAR II AND AFTER

Veterinary Corps participation in stability operations is not new. These activities were being conducted during and after World War II and have continued to the present strong position. Our participation in the Vietnam Conflict has only brought them to the attention of others.

¹⁹US Department of the Army, Army Regulations 611-101: Officer Military Occupational Specialties (Washington: 10 April 1969), pp. 110.0, 110.4.

²⁰JAVMA (Chicago: September 1, 1967), p. 633.

Among that series of volumes produced by the US Army Medical Department about medical activities in World War II is the volume, United States Army Veterinary Service in World War II (1961).²¹ This volume points out the global nature of Veterinary Corps participation, particularly in the tropics. At that time the twenty-two hundred officers and six thousand veterinary animal and food technicians of the Corps were involved with food inspection, animal procurement and care, and veterinary laboratory service on a world-wide multi-theater basis. Civil affairs and military government actions - the stability operations of the 1940's - were active in the Mediterranean, European and Pacific theaters. During and after that conflict we learned to apply training and experience to the support of allied forces followed by most active stability operations activities in the building and rebuilding of nations, an effort which has continued into the seventies.

Only two examples of stability operations of the World War II era will be cited. In early 1944, six specially trained US Army Veterinary Corps officers were assigned to Civil Affairs/Military Government in Europe with the senior officer assigned to the G-5 at Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces. From this nucleus the veterinary service in animal disease control, veterinary education, food inspection, and animal husbandry expanded to the countries of Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Holland and France.²² Improved practices in these countries have progressed to our present status where considerable

²¹ Medical Department, United States Army, United States Army Veterinary Service in World War II (Washington: Office of The Surgeon General, 1961), pp. 17, 33; 249, 283; 441; 472.

²² Ibid., pp. 457-458.

quantities of highly acceptable foodstuffs are procured under US Army veterinary supervision and in close liaison with governmental officials in these countries.²³ US Army Veterinary personnel stationed in Europe and other posts in highly developed areas gain valuable experience for use in assignments in stability operations in less developed countries. Veterinary officers are currently located on foreign soil in Iran, Germany, Italy, Ethiopia, Belgium, Netherlands, Panama, Costa Rica, Okinawa, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, Malaysia, Puerto Rico, Japan, Denmark and Austria.²⁴ Temporary duty trips to countries of New Zealand, Yugoslavia, South and Central American are made frequently.

In the American occupation of Korea the XXIV Corps Veterinarian acted as military government advisor on veterinary affairs in Korea in January 1946. Actually, other veterinary officers had arrived in December 1945 for assignment with American Military Government in the Public Health and Welfare Bureau. These officers were interested in civil veterinary education facilities, meat and dairy hygiene, laboratory activities and research, supply of veterinary materiel, and control of animal diseases.²⁵ Little then did these veterinary officers realize that the whole rehabilitation effort for Korea would be renewed following the UN peace truce with North Korea, after the Korean Conflict in 1953.²⁶

²³United States Army Veterinary Detachment (Europe), Standard Operating Procedure (Benelux Division, APO NY 109159), 20 March 1967.

²⁴US Government Printing Office, US Army Veterinary Corps (Washington: US Government Printing Office, September 1969, O-363-488, RPI 569), p. 8.

²⁵United Nations Command, Korea, Program Accomplishments - FY 1957, June 1957, APO 301 SF, Office of the Economic Coordinator, pp. 83, 92, 99.

²⁶"Korea," The World Book Encyclopedia, Vol. XI (1964), p. 293.

CHAPTER VII. CURRENT OVERSEA ASSIGNMENTS

Countries where veterinarians are currently assigned were listed in Chapter VI. Veterinary duties in these countries often consist of most functions performed in CONUS albeit at variable intensities and often modified from those found domestically. For example, procurement directives and specifications used in CONUS procurement for domestic and export use require modification to meet situations found surrounding local and off-shore procurement needs. Flexibility and adaptability to conditions are applied but always with the health and financial interest of the command as paramount considerations. The veterinary personnel in these countries are involved then with routine station duties (animal care, food inspection), local and off-shore food procurement activities, inspections at ports, sanitary inspections of food production facilities, and close liaison with indigenous or host country regulating officials.

The span of activities expands into research (food and animal) in various United States-owned and host-owned laboratories all the way to stability operations with civic action and pacification activities. The veterinary personnel may be located on the civilian economy removed from US installations. It should be mentioned at this point that under wartime conditions Veterinary Corps personnel do not receive the special status or privilege of other medical personnel unless "performing in the transport or treatment of the wounded or sick, or in the prevention of disease or exclusively engaged in the administration of medical units and establishments as members of the staffs thereof."²⁷

²⁷ Claude E. Reitzel, "Status of Veterinary Corps Personnel Under Geneva Conventions," US Army Judge Advocate General, April 1960, Washington, p. 1.

Veterinary personnel stationed overseas belong to TDA and TOE units. In most instances veterinary units (TOE or TD) are assigned or attached to a parent medical unit.

Special research and investigative veterinary teams from CONUS may be sent to foreign countries in the interest of resolving special food or animal problems. A team from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, for example, helped with the investigative work on Tropical Canine Panlycopenia, a highly fatal disease found in military-owned dogs in Southeast Asia.²⁸

Special Forces Veterinarians

The intense training of veterinarians in special forces is rigorous, challenging and slanted toward the mission of the veterinarian overseas wherever special forces units are stationed. Veterinarians in limited numbers obtain their airborne jump training at Fort Benning, Georgia following their basic and MOS training. The John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, provides a period of intensive training for the veterinary officer consisting of a number of courses at the Center's Special Warfare School. This is often followed by language training. The officer may be assigned to a Special Forces unit overseas where vacancies exist. Special courses attended by veterinarians in the past include the Special Forces Officer Course (12 weeks); Internal Development/Internal Defense (10 weeks); the Civil

²⁸US Army, "Tropical Canine Panlycopenia," Progress Report, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Walter Reed Army Medical Center (Washington: January 1970), pp. 2-3.

Affairs (6 weeks) and the Civic Action Course (8 weeks) at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Veterinary medical techniques for use in Special Forces and special action force operations involving unconventional warfare and counterinsurgency procedures in garrison, and field training, are acquired before deployment. The officer studies procedures for the collection of veterinary medical intelligence from areas of unconventional and counterinsurgency operations.²⁹ Although the Special Forces veterinarian performs most of the jobs found in a regular TOE veterinary unit, his training for field activities and work with indigenous personnel regarding care and management of pack animals, survival techniques, use of indigenous foods and the study of potential and actual incident areas of operation are made in greater detail. Special Forces enlisted medical aidmen receive as a part of medical training at the US Army Medical Field Service School a minimum of eleven hours of instruction on veterinary subjects including hours on treatment of animals, administration of drugs to animals, symptoms and diagnosis, restraint and handling of animals, animal diseases of significance to Special Forces aidmen, and the utilization of indigenous foods.³⁰ Some of these same men are available to assist the Special Forces veterinarian in operational areas overseas although these men are not specifically trained as veterinary assistants.

²⁹US Department of the Army, Field Manual 31-20: Special Forces Operational Techniques (Washington: December 1965), pp. 356-357.

³⁰US Army Medical Field Service School, "Veterinary Services Activities for Special Forces Aidman" (Fort Sam Houston: March 1967), pp. 2-3.

The extensive and specialized training of Special Forces veterinarians equips them to serve with Special Forces units, Civil Affairs units requiring veterinary augmentation, and of course regular veterinary TOE oversea and TD units.³¹

In overseas areas the veterinarian places a major counterinsurgency effort toward improving animal health of the host country. Self-help programs aimed at increasing agricultural and livestock production to improve and increase food supplies are demonstrated. These programs must realistically look toward the improvement and increase of all sources of protein including poultry production and waterfowl cultivation. Programs which show the need for better sanitary standards and quality control in food processing, storage, and handling may eventually provide opportunities for competition in world markets - certainly a real stabilizing and desirable trend.

Veterinarians assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Vietnam and other units have done an outstanding job in assisting the Vietnamese people in preserving their own economy.³²

Veterinary Task to Increase

The Food and Agricultural Organization in November 1969 presented an Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development which provided a framework within which national and regional plans could be developed.

³¹US Army Medical Field Service School, "Veterinary Officers With Special Forces" (Fort Sam Houston: March 1967), pp. 1-2.

³²"Dr. Doolittle I Presume?" Army Digest, February 1969, p. 45.

An attempt to win the race between food production and human population growth might be won through some manner of long range plan implementation in all countries. Most of us find it difficult to accept the fact that an 80 percent increase in food supplies will be required to feed the expected population increase but this is the prediction! The plan points out the need for a great expansion of agriculture to provide a firm foundation for accelerated growth in developing nations. Regarding increased protein production, the plan states that massive imports or finding of new sources as from oceans would be a partial solution. A rapid expansion of pigs and poultry are needed. The author felt that a great void in protein production may be bridged through development of potentially important protein manufacturing processes.³³

Based upon projected world subsistence needs, it is felt that in the future the US Army Veterinary officer will play a larger role in helping developing nations particularly in regard to agriculture and animal protein processes and production.

SECTION II. WORLD-WIDE STABILITY OPERATIONS

CHAPTER VIII. SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL AREAS

The next several pages provide specific examples of stability operations activities around the world where veterinary officers have and are working closely with the people and local officials. The jobs performed cover a wide range of activities from advice at top levels

³³Addeke H. Boerma, "A World Agricultural Plan," Scientific American, Vol. 223, No. 2 (August 1970), pp. 56-57.

clear to job demonstration at grass roots levels. Veterinary stability operations will be described in Korea, Greece, Ethiopia (Eritrea), Iran, Bolivia, Lebanon, Okinawa, Panama, Dominican Republic, Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

Korea

Stability operations activities began for US Forces in 1946 after South Korea gained her independence from Japan and have continued to the present time, with time out for a war between the United States and North Korea.

Today, through the efforts primarily of the United States and a proud and productive people trying to help themselves, South Korea has become politically and economically stable. Her economic growth has accelerated, even in an agrarian economy.³⁴ Veterinary officers, usually as members of TOE units, have worked to improve the livestock and waterfood and poultry industry in Korea. US forces requirements for locally produced foods (when not adversely affecting the economy) have helped immeasurably in upgrading the production of fruits, vegetables, waterfoods, and livestock, and marketing practices.^{35,36}

³⁴US Department of the Army, DA Pamphlet No. 550-41: Area Handbook for the Republic of Korea (Washington: November 1964), p. 306.

³⁵Hakwan - SA Ltd, Korea, Its Land, People and Culture of all Ages (Seoul: Hakwan - SA Ltd, 1960), pp. 1, 9, 15-16, 199.

³⁶Interview with John O. Wilson, US Army Medical Field Service School, San Antonio, Texas, 17 June 1970.

The stability effort in Korea has continued and has been rewarding in the long run. We often use the word "ally" frequently - sometimes loosely - but because of our constant efforts to stabilize the economy and security of South Korea we have gained a permanent national friend.

Greece

US Army Veterinary Corps officers in Greece were assigned to the Joint US Military Aid Group, Greece (JUSTMAGG), from 1947 to 1955. Their role consisted in helping the Greek Army develop the pack animals and their equipment, assistance in improving supply procedures, feeding, and evacuation procedures. All the divisions had pack animals for transporting supplies including weapons and ammunition. When the US Forces stationed in Greece came under Air Force control, the Army veterinarians were replaced by US Air Force veterinary officers who have continued the stability operations function in that country.³⁷

Ethiopia

The US Army veterinary element at Kagnev Station, Asamara, Ethiopia, initially was concerned with the provision of sanitarily approved foods which could be accepted from local vendors, or failing in this, in producing their own animals. Over a period of years local sources have been developed through the efforts of the Army veterinary element at Kagnev Station to the extent that a local source of disease free milk,

³⁷ Interview with Charles V. L. Elia, Office of the Fourth US Army Surgeon, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 19 August 1970.

shell eggs, and bakery goods are available. The program has improved the economy in the sanitary production of milk, livestock, fruits, and vegetables to the extent that US Navy ships calling at the Massawa port at the Red Sea procure these food items for shipboard consumption.³⁸

A continuing US Army veterinary training program for cattlemen and farmers in sanitary measures and livestock management has been responsible in a large degree for a trend in rising food quality and production in northern Ethiopia.

Iran

Even in the ancient hot and dusty country of Iran one US Army Veterinary Corps officer serves as a key member of the Medical Advisory Division of the Joint Staff, American Military Mission to Iran.

This officer advises the Iranian Veterinary Corps in food and animal matters and as preventive medicine officer for the American military elements which provide advice and assistance to Iranian Army Forces. His efforts to improve the sanitary standards of a dairy, ice manufacturing plant, and other food establishments have provided safe food supplies to both the American community and for use by the Iranian military forces.

³⁸"Public Information Officer News Release," 4th USASA Field Station, 22 November 1963, APO NY 843, pp. 3-4.

Additionally, the US veterinary officer provides preventive medical advice to the Iranian Medical Service - Army, Navy, Air Force - and acts as preventive medicine officer for the US military and US Embassy personnel.³⁹

Iran is a developing country and US Forces stationed there, including the veterinary officer, have performed in an outstanding manner under most challenging conditions in their efforts to improve the economic and health conditions.

Bolivia

Veterinary officers have been assigned at La Paz in Bolivia, South America, since 1950 as a part of the US Army Military Mission, later US Military Group. The veterinary officer who is trained to speak fluent Spanish, provides advice and other assistance to the Bolivian Army Remount Service; assisting in the use of agricultural equipment. He advises specifically on matters of animal production and control of diseases of economic and military significance.⁴⁰ Resolution of the many challenging problems has come slowly in this country so poor in natural resources and education. The veterinary officer assigned in Bolivia has been assisted on a temporary basis for special projects by US Army veterinary officers assigned to Civil Affairs and Special Forces units in Panama.

³⁹ Interview with William H. Clark, US Army Medical Field Service School, San Antonio, Texas, 8 September 1970.

⁴⁰ Interview with James H. Cass, Station Veterinarian, Fort Hood, Texas, 4 August 1970.

Unfortunately because of a severe reduction in personnel strength of the US Military Group, and a general lack of US funds, the US Army veterinary officer space was eliminated in 1969. This action terminated many years of valuable veterinary assistance to a developing country struggling for freedom and survival.⁴¹

Lebanon

The Veterinary Medical Detachment (100th VFID) arrived in country on 3 August 1958 and immediately began to search for acceptable local sources of dairy products and meats. Available sources failed to meet minimum sanitary standards and arrangements were made for supply of "A" and "B" rations from United States Armed Forces stocks in Europe. Local sources of ice and soft drinks were later approved after US Army medical requirements were met. Poor sanitary conditions in local eating establishments and foods supplied by local vendors proved unsatisfactory. Earlier veterinary unit deployment and immediate availability of the unit's vehicles and inspection equipment upon arrival in country would have permitted more effective veterinary service. The relatively short duration of the Lebanon operation prevented effective implementation of constructive improvements in the local food situation. Experience pinpointed the need for greater preventive medicine training of US Army troops.⁴²

⁴¹"US Military Presence Diminishing," Armed Forces Management, November 1969, p. 24.

⁴²Interview with Norman J. Glucksman, Defense Personnel Supply Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 23 July 1970.

Panama and Okinawa

Veterinary officers are currently participating in civil affairs and civic action programs at several overseas locations as members of civil affairs groups or as staff veterinarians for the US Civil Administration for the Ryukyu Islands, Okinawa.

Army veterinary participation in civil affairs and civic action dates back to the post World War II veterinary programs implemented in Italy, Germany, the Benelux countries, and in Japan. Renewed emphasis was given when the late President Kennedy called for United States involvement in nation building for developing countries in support of foreign policy. Veterinarians assigned to civil affairs groups are part of the military mission and are involved in advising and assisting local military forces and others in nation building. The veterinarian as a part of a mobile training or "problem solving" team usually accompanies other specialists depending on the task at hand. A public health team may be composed for example, of a veterinarian, a physician, a sanitary engineer and an entomologist.

Examples of problem situations encountered will depict type situations. Veterinary officers are based in Okinawa as part of the 97th Civil Affairs Group and work in Southeast Asia. Their duties often require them to devise herd improvement practices for domestic animals through training of paraprofessional indigenous personnel, through the

local educational system and by farmer education. Success of these operations have been vitally linked to need for extensive background information on the customs and techniques accepted in the country.⁴³ Each nation reflects its own history and cultural patterns among its Army and civilian populace.

The veterinarians assigned to the Third Civil Affairs Group in Panama often move into Latin American countries upon request to work with particular and urgent animal problems. For example, one veterinarian designed and helped build a dairy farm and introduced the use of silage for feed. In his activities he found that US supervision of US funds spent for projects of various kinds was essential. This same officer was instrumental in starting poultry and hog raising operations and provided overall advice for specific farm and ranch programs and associated meat plants.⁴⁴

Another veterinary officer of the same group served as team chief in disaster relief operations for Peru after the 31 May 1970 earthquake. This officer found in Huaras during that critical time that the physicians were quite concerned about a local superstition that dogs which ate human flesh would develop rabies. Many problems would have resulted

⁴³Buddy L. Reynolds, Veterinary Medicine in Civil Affairs and the World Health Problem, Las Vegas, Nevada, Annual Meeting, 25 July 1970, and interview with Buddy L. Reynolds, US Army Medical Field Service School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 18 July 1970.

⁴⁴Interview with John Ottenberg, Student, US Army Medical Field Service School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 5 March 1970.

from the mass destruction of the dogs at that particular time. The physicians were ultimately convinced by the veterinarian that destruction of dogs was not necessary.⁴⁵ Again it should be pointed out that fluent foreign language capability by the US personnel was essential in dealing with the indigenous people.

In February 1969, the same officer went to Nicaragua to investigate a strange disease outbreak in cattle, and in April 1970 he traveled to Ecuador to investigate a disease outbreak in horses. The disease outbreaks found in countries not having US veterinary officers assigned are investigated when Civil Affairs assistance is requested. The more sophisticated laboratory facilities available at the US Panama base were often used to assist in the diagnosis of diseases encountered.

One US Army veterinary officer has been assigned for the past ten years to the US Civil Administration for the Ryukyu Islands at Okinawa. He has served as staff veterinarian and as the deputy director of public health as well as Veterinarian for Economic Development, and Veterinarian to the Ryukyu Government in Okinawa. The senior officer at this level has the task of getting veterinary and other health matters accomplished through efforts of many others. The officer was involved with cattle and swine improvement programs, poultry production, marketing of eggs, feeds and nutrition, and with animal disease control and eradication.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Sonny D. Reynolds, 3rd Civil Affairs Group, letter to author, 10 August 1970.

⁴⁶ Interview with Charles V. L. Elia.

The training of US Army veterinary officers from their formal education and on through service schools and several tours of duty produces senior officers particularly adapted to stabilization operations assignments of this nature.

Dominican Republic

In April 1965, one small veterinary TOE STRAC Unit (69th Medical Detachment, Team JA) was sent to the Dominican Republic with the mission of providing surveillance inspection on rations arriving from CONUS and inspection of locally procured subsistence as needed. Except for local restaurant and ice plant inspections, no local subsistence was procured during the twelve months the unit remained in country. From a stability operations standpoint, the veterinary officer assisted in the examinations of horses prepared for export, and assisted Peace Corps members with swine and cattle sterility problems.⁴⁷

Thailand

Several US Army veterinarians are regularly assigned in Thailand under the Surgeon, Headquarters United States Military Assistance Command, Thailand (USMACTHAI). These officers are assigned to USMACTHAI, the Joint US Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG); the Southeast Treaty Organization (SEATO) Medical Laboratory; and to the United States Army Support, Thailand. The senior veterinary officer supervises the operation and administration of all command veterinary activities to

⁴⁷J. H. Shaw, Bellfort Animal Hospital, Houston, Texas, letter to author, 22 July 1970.

include civic action, training, advisory and laboratory programs in country. Close liaison is maintained with the Royal Thailand Army Veterinary Service. The US Army Veterinary Corps participation in the various veterinary related activities throughout the country is probably the best example of diverse and continuous veterinary stability operations. Throughout the nation US Army veterinary officers are working with the Thai Army, livestock owners, and growers and with the teaching institutions to upgrade and improve the entire livestock industry and the persons who can improve it. Modern practices using the advantages of artificial insemination techniques are being used as well as basic livestock, pasture, and forage management techniques. Animal disease definitely is being controlled. A veterinary officer at the SEATO Medical Laboratory works closely with the veterinarians in the field with animal disease diagnostic procedures and disease research work. (More information is given about the SEATO Laboratory in describing research in stability operations.) The Royal Thai Army in their use of animals as a part of military support forces have large remount departments for breeding and supply of animals. Our veterinarians are particularly helpful as advisors on these matters and have been especially proud of the work they could do for the animals of the hill tribes in Thailand resettlement areas.⁴⁸

US Army personnel have organized food inspection teams and veterinary clinics in support of US Forces and the forces of the host country.

⁴⁸Robert P. Ryan, US Army Veterinary Activities in Thailand, 1968-69 (Thailand: Headquarters United States Military Command, 1969), pp. 3; 21; 32-34.

Interestingly, the veterinary programs implemented by our officers have received continued recognition from high level host government officials including the prime minister, our ambassador to Thailand, and the commanding generals of the several commands concerned.

Vietnam

An outstanding example of accomplishment with only a few people all working toward a common goal in a key stabilization effort is depicted by the US Army veterinary team forming the group for the Participating Agency Support Agreement (PASA) in conjunction with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). A Department of Defense and US State Department agreement in 1967 set the team into motion at the modest facilities of the National Institute of Bacteriology and Animal Pathology (NIB) in Saigon, South Vietnam. The mission at NIB was simple - the task immense - that of improving the capability of the government of Vietnam to provide an adequate supply of food for its people. It was felt that impact of a successful vaccination program could provide a significant increase in quantity of animal protein available for the total population.

As early as 1961, USAID assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in establishing a modest facility for animal vaccine production and animal disease diagnostic services but the program had moved slowly. In 1967, the PASA team was organized and was composed of US Army veterinary officers made up of a microbiologist, virologist, pathologist, diagnostician and team leader. The team immediately found that the Vietnam domestic animal population had little disease protection based on existing immunizing agents and programs. Hog cholera losses alone

accounted for thirty per cent mortality. The initial team effort was concentrated on vaccine production and associated procedures related to hog cholera control.

The PASA team work has continued to expand and improve the facilities and quality of service to a point where immunization vaccines are available for purchase throughout the country by the farmer and livestock producer to be used against the diseases of rinderpest, hog cholera, Newcastle disease of poultry, fowlpox, swine salmonellosis, hemorrhagic septicemia, and fowl cholera. A critical evaluation of the protective capability of immunization agents produced can now be made and the livestock producer can plan on raising his animals to a marketable age without an unacceptable loss from diseases.

The road for the PASA team and their associated staff members has been a tough one to travel. The NIB government facilities has had low priority for Vietnamese funds. The limited number of about 18 in country indigenous civilian veterinarians and only a few more animal technicians make the immunization program a challenging one even when the vaccine is regionally available for use by the potential consumer.

The PASA team has provided in detail the progress - and problems - encountered/ⁱⁿprogram development through their quarterly progress reports to the Associate Director for Domestic Production, Protein Division, Animal Health Branch of USAID/Vietnam. The team chief points out that satisfactory progress is being made, that production of vaccine has met goals. Physical plant renovation and new equipment have helped including improved diagnostic service and national and regional banks of vaccine

equipped for vaccine storage. On the negative side improper vaccine distribution and lack of sufficient subsistence expenses for vaccinator personnel in the field have continued to impede progress.⁴⁹

It can be said about this element of stabilization operations that without competent specialized veterinary assistance in the area of animal disease vaccine production the livestock industry of South Vietnam would have continued to suffer large disease losses. Also, that any country receiving technical and monetary assistance from another country, must in time, take over that activity themselves and operate it efficiently with little or no outside help if the activity is to serve a lasting purpose. Time will prove or disprove the ultimate success of US efforts with this vital project.

TOE Veterinary Units in Vietnam

Table of Organization (TOE) veterinary units increased in South Vietnam from 1964 until July 1969. Units were reduced as troop strengths supported were cut back. The veterinary command and control, food inspection, and animal teams have been primarily responsive in fulfilling their combat service medical support mission to allied troops. As a secondary and often closely related task, the US Army veterinary units played a vital stability operations role. These activities will be described.

The mission of veterinary units in Vietnam was stated by the Deputy Veterinarian, 44th Medical Brigade: "To provide veterinary support in a

⁴⁹US Army PASA Team USAID/Vietnam, Twelfth Quarterly Report (APO NY 96384, 15 June 1970), pp. 2, 7, 10-11.

theater of operations to include, food inspection and preventive medicine, veterinary care of government owned animals, zoonosis control, pet and mascot treatment, and civic action."⁵⁰ Civic action as a form of stability operations has been exemplified on a continuous basis by members of veterinary TOE and other units containing organic veterinary personnel (Army Medical Laboratory, Transportation Terminal Commands).

Considerable effort has been made to prevent rabies in man by implementation of immunization and animal control procedures among allied and RVN military forces and among the civilian population. Probably at no time in US military overseas history have military forces and the indigenous people been so closely associated during actual support and combat operations than in this conflict in Vietnam.

Civic action projects in 1967 were conducted primarily upon request for temporary help but later that year a regular project was started in the Fourth Infantry Division when a full-time veterinary officer was assigned.⁵¹ He worked in nearby montagnard villages where veterinary service was entirely new to the people. In addition to common problems found in most large animal practices, the veterinary officer assigned encountered the exotic diseases of rinderpest and hoof and mouth disease. Swine growing projects were started in the hamlets using edible garbage. Veterinary coverage involving numerous animal husbandry and veterinary procedures was ultimately provided to 69 villages in coordination with Fourth Infantry Division teams.

⁵⁰ John C. Barck, Veterinary Briefing Notes (APO SF 96384, 12 December 1969), pp. 1-2; 9-10.

⁵¹ US Army, 44th Medical Brigade, Vietnam, Annual Veterinary Activities Report, CY 67 (Chicago: US Army Medical Department Veterinary School, January 1968), pp. 22-23.

In another area (Can Tho) a veterinary officer in cooperation with the director of the Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) in IV Corps, was flown to incident areas in the Mekong Delta where the talents of a veterinarian was needed particularly in differentiating animal diseases not transmissible to man. Civil affairs companies requested assistance from veterinary units in the Da Nang area in an effort to control intestinal parasites, erysipelas and leptospirosis in swine.⁵²

Rabies problems in animals in Vietnam, as previously stated, have required constant surveillance and use of immunization programs to control the disease. The disease is always fatal in man. Rabies cases in animals have accounted for up to 25 per cent positive for the heads collected and examined in the laboratory by veterinary and other Medical Department officers. A large number of the positives have been found in young dogs (4-6 months of age) however, heads from other warm blooded animals are regularly submitted for examination. Among these are the rat, cat, monkey, chipmunk, bat, and squirrel.⁵³ Mascot control to include immunization proved to be one of the lesser but important tasks of the veterinary service. Wherever US soldiers congregate they will pick up and feed animals and make pets of them.

Veterinary officers also worked with the First Infantry Division in its year long pacification program performing a myraid of interesting and challenging stabilization actions, including diagnosis and advice

⁵²US Army, 44th Medical Brigade, Vietnam, Operations Report - Lessons Learned (APO SF 96384, August 1969), p. 6.

⁵³Ibid., p. 9.

when disease problems affect entire herds. They conducted rabies clinics and taught animal disease control measures. One author when discussing the role of military medicine in developing countries has said: "Of significance in the developing countries are animal diseases and their relation to man... The US Army Veterinary Corps has made invaluable contributions in the field..."⁵⁴ Opportunities abound for Vietnamese to help stabilize the economy. Unfortunately the few civilian Vietnamese veterinarians are concentrated around Saigon and seldom venture to other cities or to the countryside. Someone has said that the US Army had no problems in Vietnam, only challenges. Most veterinary officers assigned there ascribe to this truism.

Animal disease epizootics can completely decimate important economic segments of a population. In the Quang Tri district in early 1970, a rinderpest outbreak occurred among the water buffalo and cattle. Veterinary assistance came immediately through a CORDS request following a desperate request for help by the district chief. The veterinary officer dispatched to the incident area made a field diagnosis differentiating rinderpest from foot and mouth disease, and from a virus diarrhea-mucosal disease complex. Eight thousand doses of vaccine were brought in from the SEATO Laboratory in Thailand and widespread

⁵⁴James Kenneth Pope, Strategic Role of Military Medicine in Developing Countries. Thesis (Carlisle Barracks: US Army War College, 1970), pp. 13; 17.

vaccination was instituted. About three thousand cattle and buffalo died from this outbreak with buffalo dead to cattle dead as a 5:1 ratio.⁵⁵ For some unknown reason the buffalo were much more susceptible to the disease.

To insure better coordination and efficiency of veterinary civic action activities in Vietnam, the senior US Army Veterinary Corps officer in Vietnam organized and chaired the first meeting of a Veterinary Civic Action Committee, 21 May 1969. Its purpose was to "function with a goal of mutual assistance, cooperation, and exchange of information to further Government of Vietnam actions in protein production and zoonoses control."⁵⁶ Committee personnel consist of the MACV Veterinarian, USAID Veterinarian, 7th Air Force Veterinarian, and the 44th Medical Brigade Veterinarian. The committee establishes policy, provides guidance, and prepares implementing guidance as necessary to standardize the activities of the participating agencies. Formation of this committee was a real milestone in veterinary stability operation coordination and progress for Vietnam.

Veterinary TOE units in Vietnam help support veterinary and other research activities conducted by assigned units in country or external groups coming in on temporary duty performing tests or research on specific concepts, organizations, or equipment. The research into a highly fatal disease of military dogs, tropical canine panlyctopenia, has been assisted over many months by those veterinarians on duty on

⁵⁵US Army MACV Veterinarian, Veterinary News Notes (APO SF 96384, April 1970), pp. 8-9.

⁵⁶Operations Report - Lessons Learned, p. 9.

the ground where the problems existed. To recognize or discover diseases and "get a handle" on the treatment and control of a disease serves as a stabilizing influence for the country.

RVN military forces have been assisted materially through the US military dog (tracker, scout, patrol) program. The tracker-type dog was not used initially but later gained favor in tactical operations. Developmental work by US Army veterinarians in CONUS has brought out the need for specially bred and trained dogs to assist in detection of mines and tunnels. A test of 14 mine and 14 tunnel dogs proved that the mine dogs could detect explosive artifacts and trip wires. Open and camouflaged holes and trip wires were detected by the tunnel dogs. Test findings resulted in the recommendation that the dog platoon be employed as an integral unit on a basis of one per division and that separate or independent brigades be allocated a platoon minus. The test unit stated that veterinary support for the 60th Infantry Platoon scout dog rendered by the division veterinarian was outstanding.⁵⁷

Use of specially trained "sniffer dogs" has been effective in detecting the presence of marijuana.⁵⁸

⁵⁷US Department of the Army Concept Team in Vietnam, 60th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)(Mine/Tunnel Detector Dog)(ACTV Project ACG-65F, December 1969), pp. 1; 11-12.

⁵⁸"Dogs Prove Valuable in Detecting Marijuana in Vietnam," The San Antonio Light, 28 August 1969, p. 4.

Research and Stability Operations
SEATO Laboratory; USAMRU

Research efforts by veterinary officers are conducted at a number of CONUS installations and to some extent at oversea installations. A significant part of the CONUS effort is in support of our own military troops domestically and overseas. Our veterinary officers assigned to the Southeast Asia Organization Laboratory in Bangkok, Thailand (SEATO Laboratory), the US Army Medical Unit (USAMRU) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, may be sighted as type operations which benefit the medical welfare and stability of the indigenous people equally as well as for our own interests.

Southeast Asia Treaty Organization Laboratory (SEATO)

The US Army component of the SEATO Laboratory is an activity of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) whose mission is to conduct medical research, to assist with the education and training of medical and allied personnel, and to provide special diagnostic facilities in cooperation with Thailand and other SEATO nations. The US Army element has a strength of 392 persons, 65 of which are US Army Medical Department officers, enlisted men and Department of the Army civilians. The balance are Thai nationals. The veterinary officers are specialists in laboratory, virology, laboratory animal, and pathology disciplines. The Veterinary Department at the laboratory is responsible for the procurement, breeding, holding, and technical assistance for all research animals. Additionally, they provide the rabies diagnostic

service for all US military personnel in country as well as for the Thai civilians. About half of the three hundred suspected rabies specimens examined each year are usually positive!⁵⁹

Malaysia

The US Army Medical Research Unit at Kuala Lumpur (USAMRU) Malaysia, is ideally located geographically in Southeast Asia and for 22 years has investigated infectious diseases of potential military importance in Tropical Asia. To cite only one area of research interest, veterinary officers and others have since 1961 conducted studies on the distribution and infectiousness of leptospirosis. The Veterinary Department at USAMRU (Malaysia) maintains very close liaison with the Malaysian Police Dog Unit, the National Zoo, and veterinarians in government and private practice.⁶⁰

SECTION III. ANALYSIS AND NEWER CONCEPTS

CHAPTER IX. REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

Analysis of US Army Veterinary Corps activities since World War II clearly indicates a trend toward greater participation by veterinary officers in stability operations activities. Requirements by our allies for assistance have increased and a greater part of the total overall

⁵⁹Ryan, p. 35.

⁶⁰"USAMRU Reports on Tropical Disease Research in Southeast Asia," Army Research and Development Magazine, May-June 1970, pp. 24, 26.

Corps effort has been spent in this vital activity of United States involvement. "Clearly there is an undercurrent in the US military to assume a larger role in matters of internal defense and perhaps in matters of general diplomacy."⁶¹

Formal, service school, and on-the-job training of US Army Veterinary Corps officers has proven efficacious in conduct of stability operations activities wherever US Forces are stationed. A variety of talents and ways of thinking has produced great motivation, stimulation, and dedication of the individual in his efforts to stabilize the economy through all those tasks performed. In many instances the officer had to demonstrate the courage to be unpopular with his views and recommendations and has accomplished this without loss of dignity and or scholarship. In this way innovation within the profession has been inspired by the need for change motivated by reason. Experience has shown that US Army veterinary officers are quite capable of serving in environments albeit primitive. "A creative person is also motivated by a desire to do the rigorous work required to test and modify his ideas and insights."⁶² Some individuals in fact excel under these difficult conditions. A few of these officers have had as much as three consecutive stabilization activities tours with time out only for additional service school or graduate training and they like this type of duty.

⁶¹C. M. Tyson, The Semantics of Stability Operations - Do We Really Understand Each Other? Thesis (Carlisle Barracks: US Army War College, 19 January 1966), pp. 21; 28.

⁶²James Mrazek, The Art of Winning Wars (New York: Walker and Company, 1969), p. 19.

It has been shown that veterinary officers possessing both specialized and general Army occupational training and experience backgrounds have been essential to the conduct of the program. The definite need for foreign language proficiency previously mentioned cannot be over-emphasized. It has been most essential in certain assignments while in others it has been helpful. Cross-training of the individual in several skills and specific mission oriented training courses have often been found necessary.

Recruiting of quality veterinary officers for careers in the Corps continues as a problem and it is believed that greater emphasis, involvement, and assurance of assignments heavy in stability operations activities would assist the recruiting effort.

A survey of veterinary students in the United States and Canada regarding the contributions that veterinarians could make to solution of the world food problem indicated good interest (38.9% of two thousand thirty students polled) in working in a developing country if a realistic opportunity were available.⁶³

⁶³Peter M. Schantz and James G. Cunningham, "Veterinary Students Working in Developing Countries," JAVMA, April 1969, p. 892.

CHAPTER X. NEWER CONCEPTS

I believe that a new specialty section could be formed within the US Army Veterinary Corps which would enhance the prestige and professionalism of those individuals serving in stability operations assignments and those new veterinary officers that may be role-sampling and searching for career attractions that meet their own desires and interests.

Affiliation with this "section" would not make mandatory a change in military occupational specialty for those specially trained by virtue of graduate training, but could provide a new MOS available for the generalist or officer serving his first tour in stability operations.

Additional training for officers destined for stability operations tours should be provided. This would not replace, supplement, or duplicate that training received by those officers in Special Forces. We do have that group of officers who join Civil Affairs, TD units, and in special instances in TOE units as in Vietnam who need the additional mission oriented training. This might include general orientation, language training, area and regional studies.

Suggested officer requirements for persons desiring a tour essentially encompassing stabilization operations activities would include:

1. Satisfactorily completion of two or more years in the US Army Veterinary Corps and demonstration of tangible evidence of these efforts.
(The man must have done a good job with minimum supervision.)

2. Assurance of subsequent stabilization activities-type assignments, if desired, after successfully completing an initial tour (not more than one stateside assignment intervening).
3. Proven dedication to the objectives of the US Army and sincere desire and interest in improving the welfare of others.

An expected bonus would accrue to officers having completed stabilization activities tours. These officers would be valuable because of their:

- a. Priceless experience and diversified background for additional assignments in this area of activity.
- b. Ability to teach in service schools to include duty at the
 - USA Medical Field Service School
 - USA Medical Department Veterinary School
 - USA Quartermaster Subsistence School
 - Civil Affairs School
- c. Assignment to stability operations disciplines can provide an excellent transition for young veterinary officers desiring duty of a somewhat "different" nature during the earlier years of an army career.
- d. Valuable experience gained for subsequent and post-retirement civilian positions (teaching, research, USAID).

Availability of assignments of a stability operations nature and assurance for assignment would:

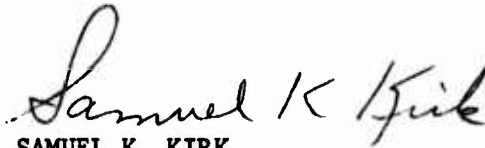
1. Provide assurance of desired assignment.
2. Provide a pool of available officers (active duty and reserve) to meet existing or expected mission requirements.
3. Provide incentive for increased numbers of career officers.
4. Provide better justification for language and special mission oriented training.
5. Permit advancement within the constraints of the promotion system to rise as far as the officer's competence would allow.
6. Ensure further development of existing marketable skills.
7. Permit formation of "section" which could provide entree to additional validated spaces in Civil Affairs, Special Forces, and other units requiring the specialized services of veterinary officers.
8. Provide means for specialty qualified reserve officers to be called to active duty upon their own request for one or more stabilization activities tours.

Disadvantages of special stabilization activities "section":

1. Overall career management assignment flexibility might be reduced by creating another "specialized" field of endeavor within a small Corps.
2. No outstanding problems have been encountered under present system of training and assignment.

Summary and Conclusions

Formal and service training of US Army Veterinary Corps officers and their contributions to United States Government stabilization operations efforts have been described. Several examples of specific contributions to stabilization efforts in overseas locations were given. An analysis of present roles and anticipated need for greater participation in the vital areas of stability operations is predicted. Suggested requirement guidelines with advantages and disadvantages for the formation of a new stabilization operations career section within the US Army Veterinary Corps are offered.


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